

1 HEATHER E. WILLIAMS, SBN 122664
Federal Defender
2 CHRISTINA SINHA, SBN 278893
Assistant Federal Defender
3 Designated Counsel for Service
801 I Street, Third Floor
4 Sacramento, CA 95814
T: (916) 498-5700
5 F: (916) 498-5710

6 Attorneys for Defendant
STEVEN MICHAEL ROBERTS
7

8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) Case No. 2:20-CR-7-JAM
11)
Plaintiff,)
12) **STIPULATION AND ORDER TO ACCEPT**
vs.) **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES PER GENERAL**
13) **ORDER 616**
STEVEN MICHAEL ROBERTS,)
14) Date: January 12, 2021
Defendant.) Time: 9:30 A.M.
15) Judge: Hon. John A. Mendez
_____)

16 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED and agreed by and between United States Attorney
17 McGregor W. Scott, through Assistant United States Attorney Miriam Hinman, counsel for
18 Plaintiff, and Federal Defender Heather Williams, through Assistant Federal Defender Christina
19 Sinha, counsel for Mr. Roberts, that the plea agreement in this matter may be signed by Mr.
20 Roberts via electronic signature.

21 On April 15, 2020, Chief United States District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller issued
22 General Order 616, "Consent and Signature Requirements on Documents Filed in Criminal
23 Actions During the COVID-19 Public Emergency" ("G.O. 616"). For the reasons detailed in
24 G.O. 616, defense counsel is authorized to electronically sign documents on her client's behalf
25 using the format "/s/ name" if the following conditions are met:

- 26 1. The client has had an opportunity to consult with counsel;
27 2. The client consents to counsel signing on the client's behalf; and
28

- 1 3. The judge presiding over the case makes a finding that “obtaining an actual
2 signature is impracticable or imprudent in light of the public health situation
3 relating to COVID-19.”

4 Defense counsel represents that all three conditions have been met here. Therefore, the
5 parties stipulate as follows, and respectfully request the Court to find that:

- 6 1. Mr. Roberts has had an opportunity to consult with undersigned defense counsel
7 regarding this matter;
- 8 2. Mr. Roberts consents to undersigned defense counsel signing the plea agreement
9 on his behalf; and
- 10 3. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, obtaining an actual signature from Mr.
11 Roberts is both impracticable and imprudent, as it would unnecessarily increase
12 the likelihood that the relevant parties and those who come into contact with them
13 will be exposed to COVID-19.

14 Respectfully submitted,

15 HEATHER E. WILLIAMS
16 Federal Defender

17 Date: January 6, 2021

17 /s/ Christina Sinha
18 CHRISTINA SINHA
19 Assistant Federal Defender
20 Attorneys for Defendant
21 STEVEN MICHAEL ROBERTS

22 Date: January 6, 2021

22 MCGREGOR W. SCOTT
23 United States Attorney

23 /s/ Miriam Hinman
24 MIRIAM HINMAN
25 Assistant United States Attorney
26 Attorney for Plaintiff
27
28

ORDER

The Court, having received and considered the parties' stipulation, and good cause appearing therefrom, adopts the parties' stipulation in its entirety as its order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 6, 2021

/s/ John A. Mendez

THE HONORABLE JOHN A. MENDEZ
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE